

Book of Saints





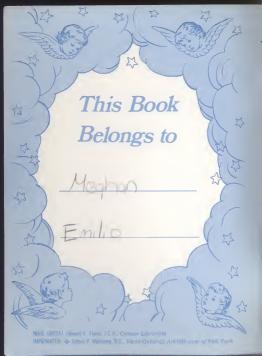














CROSO A STATE OF COMMENTS

"SUPER-HEROES OF GOD"

By REV. LAWRENCE G. LOVASIK, S.V.D.
Divine Word Missionary

PART 1

CONTENTS

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton .	2	St. Lawrence	17
St. John Bosco	5	St. Pius X	18
St. Patrick	6	St. Peter Claver	21
St. John Baptist de La Salle	8	St. Vincent De Paul	23
St. Anthony of Padua	11	St. Teresa of Avila	25
St. Thomas More	13	St. Margaret Mary Alacoque	26
St. Anne	15	St. Isaac Jogues	29
St. Stephen			

CATHOLIC BOOK PUBLISHING CO. NEW YORK, N. Y.

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

January 4

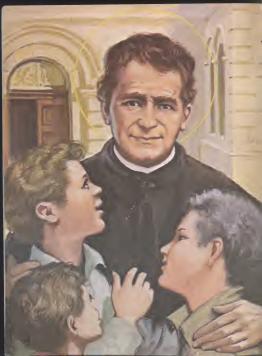
BORN in New York City, August 28, 1774, Elizabeth lost her mother early, and her education became the concern of her father.

At nineteen, Elizabeth married William Magee Seton of New York. Five children were born of their happy union. After her husband's death, the Filicchi—life-long friends—welcomed the grieving widow to their home in Italy.

Elizabeth returned to New York in 1804 and entered the Catholic Church on March 14, 1805. She accepted an invitation from Archbishop Carroll to establish a girls' school in Baltimore. Several women joined her in the religious life, and she became known as "Mother Seton." They were known as Sisters of Charity and lived in Emmitsburg.

A school opened for the children of the parish was the first parochial school in the United States. Elizabeth died on January 4, 1821. In 1963 she became the first American-born citizen to be beatified and on September 14, 1975 she was canonized by Paul VI.





Saint John Bosco

January 31

JOHN was born on a little farm near Turin, Italy, in 1850. His parents were very poor. He walked four miles every day to school for half the year, and then worked in the fields for a farmer, then a tailor, a baker, a shoemaker, and a carpenter. In this way he worked himself through high school, college, and seminary, and became a priest.

Boys loved Father John. He found places for them to meet, to play, and to pray. He rented an old barn in a field which he called "The Oratory." It was a home for boys, especially the poor boys who needed a home. He started many of these oratories. He believed that prayer and Holy Mass and Communion and confession are the best ways of making boys good.

He was called Don Bosco. He founded the religious order of Salesians, a group of priests who would help him in his work for boys in many countries. They taught boys many trades. Many of the boys became priests. He is known as the Apostle of Youth.

Saint Patrick

March 17

PATRICK was born in Scotland in the year 387. At sixteen he was captured by pirates and sold as a slave to a chief in Ireland. While tending sheep in the mountains, he prayed much.

After six years, a voice from heaven told him to go back to his own country. But first he went to Rome, where he became a priest. He was then sent to England, but after some time he begged the Pope to send him to Ireland. The Pope made him a bishop and then sent him as a missionary to Ireland.

One of the pagan kings of Ireland arrested Patrick. When he saw the miracles worked by Patrick, he said, "Tell us about your God. He has given you great power."

"There is but one God," answered Patrick, "in three Persons: the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit." Picking up a green shamrock he said, "Even as there are three leaves on this one stem, so there are three Persons in one God." After that he was allowed to preach the new Faith everywhere in Ireland. His missionaries later brought the Christian Faith to many parts of Europe.



Saint John Baptist De La Salle

April 7

JOHN La Salle was born in Rheims, France, in 1651. At the age of 11 he began to prepare for the Holy Priesthood and was ordained at 27. He was admired for his great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

John was asked to help in two schools in which the teachers were trying to educate their pupils free of charge. He directed the teachers for four years, and then decided to spend his life with them.

John gave away the large fortune his parents had left him. He and the young men then took vows to labor as teachers all their lives, and this was the beginning of the Congregation of the Christian Brothers.

John started a grade and high school and a school where the boys could learn a trade. He also started a school for teachers.

St. John died at Rouen in 1719 and was canonized in 1900. In 1950 Pope Pius XII named him patron of school teachers. He is often called the "father of modern education."





Saint Anthony of Padua

June 13

ANTHONY'S parents were very rich and wanted him to be a great nobleman. But he wanted to be poor for the sake of Jesus, so he became a Franciscan.

Anthony was a great preacher. He was sent out as a missionary in many cities in Italy and France. He brought many sinners back to God through his preaching, prayer, and good example.

One day, when Anthony was praying, the Infant Jesus appeared to him, put His little arms around his neck, and kissed him. this wonderful favor was given to him because he kept his soul from sin and because he loved Jesus very much.

Over and over again God called him to something new in his plan. Each time Anthony answered with zeal to serve his Lord Jesus with all his heart.

Anthony died in a monastery near Padua in 1231 at the age of thirty-six. Many miracles took place after his death. Even today he is called "wonder-worker."



Saint Thomas More

June 22

THOMAS More went to school in London. He served as a page for the Archbishop of Canterbury. Later, he studied law.

Thomas married. After the death of his wife, he remarried for the sake of his four children. The family lived happily and shared their money with the poor.

King Henry VIII made him Chancellor of England, a position second only to that of the king himself. Thomas saw that the poor were protected against injustice.

Once while Thomas was at Mass, which he attended every morning, King Henry sent for him. He did not leave until the Mass was finished, but sent this message: "As soon as my audience with the King of Heaven is ended, I will at once obey the desire of my earthly king."

King Henry wanted a law passed making himself head of the Church of England, because the Pope would not grant him a divorce from the Queen. Thomas resigned and was arrested. He suffered much in prison for his Faith. He prayed for the king before he was beheaded in 1535.



Saint Anne

July 26

ANNE was the mother of the Blessed Virgin and the grandmother of Jesus Christ.

She and her husband, Joachim, were very devoted to God. They lived in Nazareth. They had no children, and that was believed to be a punishment of God among the Jews. They prayed to God and begged Him to give them a child. She promised to give her child to God's service.

Their prayers were heard even though Anne was already too old to have children. A daughter was born to Anne, and she called her Miriam or "Mary." Anne offered her child to God at a very early age.

Mary spent some years helping in the Temple. When she returned to Nazareth the Archangel Gabriel appeared to her and told her that she would be the Mother of the Son of God.

St. Anne's name means "grace." God gave her special graces, and the greatest was that she was the mother of the Mother of God. St. Anne is the patron of mothers and of children. Her prayers to Jesus and Mary are very powerful.



Saint Lawrence

August 10

AWRENCE was the first of the seven deacons who served the Roman Church. His duty was to assist the Pope when celebrating Holy Mass and to give Holy Communion to the people. He was also in charge of the Church property, distributing among the poor the offerings given by the Christians.

When Pope Sixtus was led out to die, Lawrence wept that he, too, could not die along with him. The Pope said: "Do not cry, my son; in three days you will follow me."

Lawrence was arrested. When the governor of the city ordered him to turn over the treasures of the Church, he gathered the poor and the sick. Showing them to the governor, he said: "These are the real treasures of the Church."

According to a popular legend, Lawrence was placed on a gridiron to be roasted over a slow fire. Later he said: "You may turn my body over; it is roasted enough on that side." Lawrence died in the year 258.

Saint Pius X

August 21

JOSEPH Sarto was the son of a poor village shoemaker and the oldest of eight children. Two priests of the parish helped him.

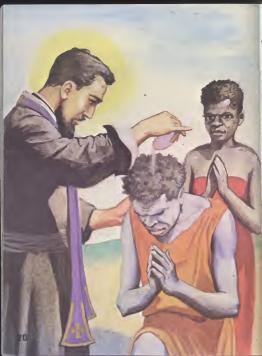
After ordination Joseph was made an assistant to the pastor in a small Italian town in the mountains. All the people loved him because he was kind. His soul was on fire with the love of God, especially when he preached about the Blessed Sacrament.

When he became Bishop of Mantua, he said: "I shall spare myself neither care nor labor nor earnest prayers for the salvation of souls. My hope is in Christ."

In 1903 Joseph was elected Pope and took the name Pius X. His motto was: "To restore all things in Christ, so that Christ may be all in all." His teaching was: "Love God, and lead good Christian lives." He wanted this goal to come about through frequent Holy Communion, especially early First Communion.

Pius X died on August 20, 1914, with the words: "To restore all things in Christ." He is called the Pope of the Blessed Sacrament."





Saint Peter Claver

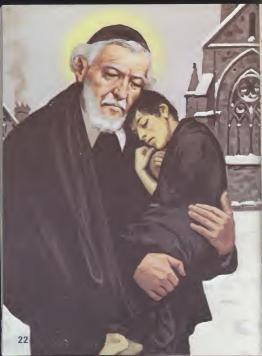
September 9

PETER Claver was a Spanish Jesuit. He was sent to Cartagena in South America where he spent forty years in this great slave market of the West Indies, laboring for the salvation of African Black peoples. He called himself "the slave of the slaves." He was their apostle, father, physician, and friend.

When news arrived of a slave ship coming into port, Peter would go on board at once and bring comfort to his dear slaves. He fed and clothed them, and took care of them in their ugly diseases. He baptized forty thousand Black slaves before he went to his reward in 1654.

Peter would say: "We must speak to the Blacks with our hands by giving, before we try to speak to them with our lips." He started charitable societies among the Spanish people to help the slaves.

St. Peter Claver is the patron of the missionary work done among the Black people of the United States.



Saint Vincent De Paul

September 27

VINCENT was born in France in 1576. When he was still a young priest, he was captured by Turkish pirates who sold him into slavery. For two years he had to work hard for the masters who bought him. He converted his last master and was then set free.

Vincent was sent to work in a parish near Paris. He was a very great friend of the poor. He started groups to look after them. The women took care of the sick and cooked meals for them. Men gave food and clothes to the needy.

Vincent started the Order of the Daughters of Charity who worked for the poor and sick. He built homes for the poor, the sick, the aged, and abandoned children. He also started the Congregation of the Mission, a society of priests and missionaries called the Vincentians.

Vincent died in Paris at the age of eightyfour. The St. Vincent de Paul Society continues his work for the poor.



Saint Teresa of Avila

October 15

TERESA was the daughter of noble parents in Spain. When she was only seven years of age she and her little brother liked to read stories from the lives of saints. One of their games was playing "hermit" in their father's garden.

When Teresa was still quite young, she became crippled by disease and was unable to walk. She prayed to St. Joseph, who cured her.

Teresa lost her mother when she was twelve. She begged the Mother of God to be her mother. Five years after her mother's death she joined the Carmelite Order. She built many new convents.

By a life of prayer, work, and sacrifice Teresa brought many souls to Jesus. Her many writings show her great love of God. She wrote: "Let nothing trouble you, let nothing make you afraid. All things pass away. God never changes. Patience obtains everything. God alone is enough." She died on October 4, 1582 after she had a vision of Jesus and many saints.

Saint Margaret Mary

October 16

ARGARET Mary was born in 1647 in France. She was a cripple, but the Blessed Virgin Mary cured her. In thanksgiving she promised to give her life to God. She entered the Order of the Visitation.

Sister Margaret Mary loved our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament very much. He showed her His Sacred Heart in four visions. The flames that came forth from His Sacred Heart were a sign of His burning love for us and His desire that we love Him in return. The crown of thorns around His Heart were a sign of sacrifice and penance to make up for sin.

Jesus said to her: "Look at this Heart which has loved men so much, and yet men do not want to love Me in return. Through you I wish to spread devotion to My Sacred Heart everywhere on earth."

Jesus made at least twelve promises to her. One of these promises is that He would bless those who honor His Sacred Heart and give them the graces they need in life and in death.





Saint Isaac Jogues

October 19

TSAAC Jogues was born in France in 1607. As a young Jesuit, Isaac, a man of learning, taught literature. He gave up that career to work among the Huron Indians in Canada. He wanted to lead the savage redskins to Christ.

Father Jogues and his companions suffered much and were always in danger of death. On an expedition to Quebec for supplies of medicine and food, Father Jogues and his companions were surrounded by a band of Iroquois. They were taken captives and tortured.

Later, he escaped and returned to France. Several of his fingers had been cut, chewed, or burnt off. Pope Urban VIII gave him permission to offer Mass with his mutilated hands: "It would be shameful that a martyr of Christ be not allowed to drink the blood of Christ."

But his zeal led Father Jogues back to the Huron Indians. He was captured by a Mohawk war party, tomahawked and beheaded in a village near Albany, New York, in 1646. He and his companions were the first martyrs of North America.



Saint Stephen

December 26

THE Apostles told the disciples to choose seven men who lived a holy life to help in the care of the poor. These men were called deacons, and Stephen was named first of the deacons. The Apostles ordained them deacons by praying and placing their hands upon them.

Stephen was very holy and brave, and worked great wonders among the people. But some of the Jews accused him of talking against God and Moses. Stephen talked with great wisdom before the court of the Jews. People said there was a halo around his head and his face looked like that of an angel as he spoke bravely of Jesus.

The Jews became very angry. But Stephen being full of the Holy Spirit, looking up to heaven, said: "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God."

The angry people dragged him outside of the city and stoned him to death. But Stephen forgave his murderers, saying: "Lord, lay not this sin against them. Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." He died as the first martyr.

Prayer

OD our Father,
all holiness comes from You.
The work of Your grace
is shown in Your saints;
the beauty of Your truth
is made known in their faith.
I want to have a part in their joy.

May I be filled with the Holy Spirit
Who blessed their lives,
so that having shared their faith
an imitated their example on earth,
I may also enjoy their peace
and happiness in heaven.

Grant this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



Dear parents:

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295 Book of Saints (Part 1)	386 St. Anthony of Padua	

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